IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An alkylacetal compound according to Claim 4, which is having a structure represented by formula (3):

$$CH_{3}(CH_{2})_{n}$$

$$CH_{3}(CH_{2})_{n+2}$$

$$HC \longrightarrow CH$$

$$O \longrightarrow C$$

$$CH_{3}(CH_{2})_{n+2}$$

$$R^{4}$$

$$O \longrightarrow C$$

$$R^{5}$$

$$R^{6}$$

wherein R³ to R⁶ are as defined in formula (2) each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, and n represents an integer in a range of 7 to 15.

Claims 6-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 3 having a structure represented by formula (2):

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_{3} \\ \downarrow \\ \downarrow \\ H_{3}C - \left(\begin{array}{c} H_{2}C \\ \end{array}\right)_{j} \\ O - C \\ C \\ \downarrow \\ R^{6} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} R^{3} \\ \downarrow \\ C \\ \downarrow \\ R^{6} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} R^{7} \\ \downarrow \\ K \end{array} \begin{array}{c} (2) \\ \downarrow \\ R^{6} \end{array}$$

wherein R³ to R⁸ each independently represent hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, k represents 0 or 1, and i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 10 to 70, said process comprising wherein the alkylacetal compound

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represented by formula (2) is produced by reacting an alcohol with an epoxide represented by formula (4):

$$\begin{array}{c|c} CH_{3} \\ & CH_{2} \\ & CH$$

wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 10 to 70.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled).